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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/809,852	BRUECKNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul R. Myers	2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner was unable to find in ring arbitration checking that a first signal indicating one of the arbitration rings is enabled, outputting a signal if the signal that indicated the arbitration ring is enabled is applied then checking again after a predetermined time interval that the signal that indicates the arbitration ring is enabled is still applied and that the rings have priority levels.

The examiner notes in accordance with applicants specification that the signal that indicates the arbitration ring is enabled is active if no bus request is applied to this device or if a bus request is applied and this device is already the bus master

Several references were found that taught multiple rings with different priorities such as for example PN 6,272,580 to Stevens et al, PN 4,395,753 to Comfort et al and PN 5,912,889 to Preas et al. However none of these taught a signal that indicates an arbitration ring is enabled is checked to still be active after a predetermined time period.

PN 3,983,540 to Keller et al teaches a ring (not really an arbitration ring but would be obvious in an arbitration ring) that includes a signal that is generated to acknowledge a request and the grant signal is not generated until after the ACK signal has traversed the loop. This signal however instead of indicating the ring is enabled instead indicated that the request has been received and the checking is done by the host at the host instead of done by the requesting device at the requesting device.

PN 6,459,704 to Jandrell teaches the closest to applicants claimed method excluding it being in an arbitration ring. Jandrell teaches once a packet is ready to be sent (this would be at a request time) sensing if the channel is enabled (idle) waiting a predetermined time (used for

prioritizing) then granting access to the channel and transmitting the packet only is the channel is still enabled (idle). While this method might be combinable with an arbitration ring is would not be combinable with one with multiple arbitration rings “wherein a respective priority is assigned to each of the arbitration rings” because Jandrell is already accounting for priority by the amount of the predetermined time.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings include labels that appear redacted when scanned into the computer. The black writing on a black background is nearly unreadable. The examiner suggests black labels on a white background. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul R. Myers whose telephone number is 571 272 3639. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (571) 272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



PRM
November 16, 2007

PAUL R. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER